

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~a~~ treating systemic lupus erythematosus in a patient that has systemic lupus erythematosus comprising:

administering gene-modified T cells, said T cells originating from said patient and having been gene modified by treating them with antisense having suppressed expression of cAMP response element modulator (CREM) plasmid, to said systemic lupus erythematosus patient, thereby increasing the expression of IL-2.

2.- 9. (cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A method of treating ~~a patient with~~ systemic lupus erythematosus in a patient having systemic lupus erythematosus comprising:

a) removing lymphocytes from ~~a~~ said patient having systemic lupus erythematosus;  
b) leukopheresing said lymphocytes;  
c) transfecting said leukopheresed lymphocytes with plasmid vectors containing anti-sense cAMP response element modulator; and  
d) re-infusing said transfected lymphocytes into the patient.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein said antisense cAMP response element modulator, is  $\alpha$ -antisense cAMP response element modulator that prevents CREM mRNA from being transcribed and forming CREM protein.

12.-14 (cancelled)

15. (currently amended) The method of treating ~~a human patient having~~ systemic lupus erythematosus in a patient that has systemic lupus erythematosus comprising

administering said T cells that have decreased cAMP response element modulator mRNA to said patient.

16-28 (cancelled)

29. (new) A method of treating T cells from a systemic lupus erythematosus patient comprising:  
removing said T cells; and  
treating said T cells with antisense cAMP response element modulator (CREM).

30. (new) A method of treating lymphocytes from a systemic lupus erythematosus patient comprising:

a) removing said lymphocytes from said patient;  
b) leukopheresing said lymphocytes;  
c) transfecting said leukopheresed lymphocytes with plasmid vectors containing anti-sense cAMP response element modulator to stop the expression of cAMP response element modulator.